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STATE PARK

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## THE PARK

Illini State Park, across the Illinois River from Marseilles near Rt. 6, is a family recreational area. The 510-acre park is in a section of the Illinois River called the Great Falls, due to the land's dropping 3 feet in 2 miles.

Illini entered the state park system in 1934 and was dedicated in 1935. It was maintained by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930's. Some of the park shelters were constructed during this period.

## HISTORY

The park is on an old glacial feature called the Marseilles Moraine and is underlaid by coal about 100 feet deep. There was a large coal mine 1 mile south of the park until World War II.

The Illinois River flows past the entire length of the park's north boundary. The river's rapids were bypassed by the Illinois-Michigan Canal, begun in 1836 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The canal is on the Illini State Park property and visitors can watch large river barges passing through the Marseilles Lock.

The Illinois-Michigan canal formerly carried the commerce of the area. The Marseilles-to-Morris section was the last completed, in 1848, and the waterway was reportedly the greatest engineering feat of its time. The historic Illinois-Michigan canal is less than 1 mile from the park.

The park is within the area of the former Marasottawa Country Club, which was organized by the late W. D. Boyce, founder of the Boy Scouts, and a resident of nearby Ottawa.

## NATURAL SCENE

A variety of trees are found in the park, such as hickory, ash, walnut, autumn olive, hackberry, oak, elm, cherry, cottonwood and sycamore. Flowers bloom throughout the park in spring. Wildlife seen throughout the area include beavers, whitetail deer, squirrels, ground hogs, mallard ducks, geese, raccoons, foxes and songbirds.







## FACILITIES

**Picnicking:** There are several picnic areas scattered throughout the park near the river. Tables, outdoor stoves, drinking water, toilets and playground equipment are available. Shelters with fireplaces are also provided.

**Summer Interpretive Program:** A park interpreter conducts recreation programs designed to provide activities to the visitor and relate him to his environment and natural resources.

**Camping:** In addition to tent camping, the park offers trailer sites with electricity and sanitary facilities. Campers must obtain a camping permit from the park's personnel before entering the campground. Youth group camping is available; groups of over 25 persons need advance permission to enter the park.

**Boating and Fishing:** A boat ramp is available but boats are not for rent. There is no motor limit on the Illinois River. The river can be fished for crappie, bullhead and carp.

**Trails:** There are 2 trails within the park; the ½ mile Chassogoac interpretive trail and the 2 mile Marasottawa hiking trail.

**Concession Stand:** A variety of refreshments are offered, including ice cream, soft drinks and candy.

**Please:** Help keep this park clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. Put all litter in the nearest trash container.

**Other:** A baseball diamond is available and winter sledding is popular. Open field are often used to fly kites and model airplanes.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

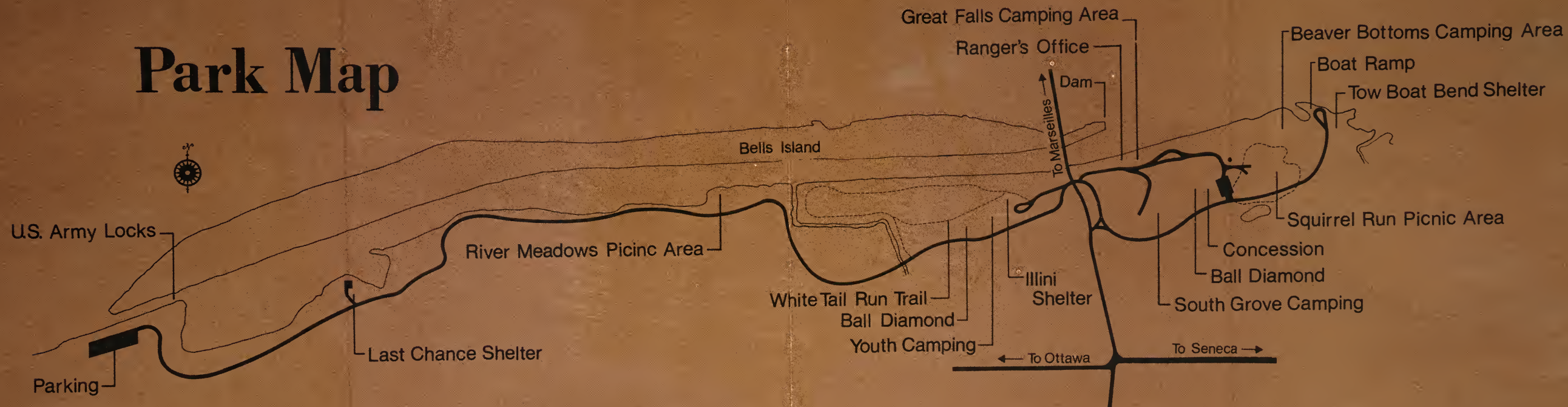
All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Ranger, R.R. 1, Box 60, Marseilles, 61341, phone 815/795-2448. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Section, State Office Building, Springfield, 62706.





# Park Map





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